

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 16 and 22-34 are pending in the application. Claims 27-34 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 16 and 20 are rejected, and claims 21-26 are objected to. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 27-34 and indication of allowability of claims 21-26.

Claims 1-2, 8-9, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,732,153 to Ohsawa. Claims 21-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 21, and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 22, 25 and 26 have been amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitation that is believed to render claim 1 allowable as amended, and is believed to be allowable for that reason. New claims 35-38 present original claims 17-20, which were cancelled but which are now resubmitted for consideration and which are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons that they depend on an allowable base claim and contain additional limitations not found in the prior art. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, a telephone interview with the Examiner is hereby requested by the undersigned at (214) 953-5990 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

A Petition for 3-Month Extension of Time is enclosed. In addition, payment for additional claims is enclosed. A check in the amount of \$1,720.00 is enclosed (\$700.00 additional claim fee and \$1,020.00 3-month extension fee). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to Deposit Account No. 10-0096 in the name of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Dated: April 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Jackson Walker L.L.P.

By: 

Christopher J. Rourk

Reg. No. 39,348

Attorney for Applicants

901 Main Street
Suite 6000
Dallas, Texas 75202
Direct: 214-953-5990
Fax: 214-661-6604
Email: crourk@jw.com